

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

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OES-06 INT-05 /082 W

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R 090302Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1684

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT MORESBY 0794

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, PFOR, PP, XP

SUBJ: COMMENTS ON SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM MEETING IN NAURU

REF: WELLINGTON 2889

1. SABUMEI, FIRST ASST SEC, DFAT, WHO ACCOMPANIED PRIME MINISTER SOMARE TO NAURU FOR SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM MEETING, MADE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ABOUT RECENT FORUM MEETING:

2. HE THOUGHT THE MEETING WAS USEFUL. THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS, PARTICULARLY WITH RELATION TO FISHERIES AND THE 200 MILE ECONOMIC ZONE. SOVIET INITIATIVES CAME IN FOR MUCH DISCUSSION.

3. WESTERN SAMOAN PRIME MINISTER EFI WAS VERY ARTICULATE
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AND TOOK A VERY STRONG STAND ABOUT HIS COUNTRY'S

ECONOMIC NEEDS, ESPECIALLY DURING INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS. EFI QUESTIONED THE UTILITY OF THE FORUM. IF IT WAS NOT A MEANS FOR HIS COUNTRY TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC HELP, HE SAW LITTLE REASON FOR WESTERN SAMOA TO BELONG. HE IMPLIED THAT HIS COUNTRY MIGHT WITHDRAW FROM THE FORUM AND TURN TO THE SOVIETS FOR ASSISTANCE.

4. SABUMEI SAID THE CREATION OF A 200 MILE ECONOMIC ZONE OF FORUM MEMBERS WOULD NECESSITATE SOME ARRANGEMENTS TO POLICE THE ZONE, ESPECIALLY WITH REGARD TO FISHING. HE COMMENTED THAT THE FORUM COUNTRIES WERE WOEFULLY UNEQUIPPED FOR SUCH AN UNDERTAKING. HE ADDED THAT SHOULD THE USSR OFFER COASTAL VESSELS THAT COULD BE USED FOR POLICING THE ECONOMIC ZONE TO WESTERN SAMOA, PRIME MINISTER EFI WOULD FIND THE OFFER VERY ATTRACTIVE.

5. HE COMMENTED THAT AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND HAD DONE A LOT OF THE TALKING AT THE CONFERENCE "BECAUSE THEY HAD A LOT TO ANSWER FOR."

6. COMMENT: DURING DISCUSSIONS SABUMEI MADE IT CLEAR GPNG DOES NOT RPT NOT WANT SOVIET INTRUSION INTO AREA. HE ALSO REVERTED TO THEME HE HAS PROMULGATED BEFORE TO EFFECT HE DOES NOT WANT TO SEE GREAT POWER SPHERES OF INFLUENCE IN THE PACIFIC. HE DID NOT IN ANY WAY SUGGEST THAT THE FORUM NATIONS WOULD LOOK TO THE USG FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. IT IS CLEAR HE IS LOOKING TO AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND AS THE LOGICAL AID DONORS IN THE PACIFIC. OLMSTED

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